GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1283
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2017
Higher Education Regulator
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan;Maragatham Smt. K.;Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to merge the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education into a Single higher education regulator;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the proposed Higher Education Empowerment Regulation Agency (HEERA) is aimed at eliminating overlaps in jurisdiction and remove irrelevant regulatory provisions;
(d) if so, whether the idea for a single regulator is not new but has been recommended by various committees earlier; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a) to (c): No such proposal is under consideration at present, to merge the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) into a single higher education regulator.
(d) & (e): The idea of a single regulator for higher education is not new. Various committees on higher education have earlier recommended a single regulatory body. While National Knowledge Commission (2006) recommended an independent regulatory authority for higher education, the Committee on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education (Professor Yashpal Committee: 2009) advocated an apex regulatory body by converging multiple regulatory agencies in the field of higher education. Further, the University Grants Commission Review Committee (Prof. Hari Gautam Committee) in 2014 had recommended that the UGC should be replaced by an apex institution entitled National Higher Education Authority.
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